

## On the types of five old genera in Lepidoptera.

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In view of the urgent need to stabilize the nomenclature of some important genera in Lepidoptera I began a short time ago to examine a number of old works containing data sufficient to clear those cases in which the greatest confusion prevails. The result of my studies on this subject is, fortunately, convenient as it is attained without disturbing any well-established name. The genera *Manlia* Oken and *Elpenor* Oken are here used for the first time since the publication by their author; that this is so is not due to chance, but to the ignorance or misapplication of the principles laid down by the International Code.

The present paper brings one new type fixation (*Manlia* Oken). As regards the typization of all other genera dealt with I designate the genotype upon the basis of any action by the first respective reviser, or upon the basis of the original publication itself (the latter method was necessary in the case of *Elpenor* Oken).

I have tried to explain the status of several old genera in Lepidoptera. These are: I) *Sesia* Fabr., type *S. apiiformis* (Cl.). II) *Drepana* Schr., type *D. glaucata* (Scop.). III) *Platypteryx* Lasp., type *P. falcatoria* (Linn.). IV) *Elpenor* Oken, type *E. elpenor* (Linn.). V) *Manlia* Oken, type *M. limacodes* (Hufn.).

### I) *Sesia* Fabricius, 1775.

Fabricius, 1775 (Syst. Ent., p. 547) created the genus *Sesia* for a number of species which are now considered systematically very different. In 807 (Mag. Insektenkde 6, p. 288) he did not specify as the genotype any species from them, but established a new genus *Aegeria* to include *Sesia apiiformis* (Cl.) and some other «clear-wing» moths. The type of the genus *Sesia* Fabr. was selected for the first time by Latreille, 1810 (Consid. gén., p. 440), who designated *Sesia apiiformis* as such. Stephens, 1828 (Ill. Brit. Ent. Haustell, 1, p. 134), was not justified when he used the name *Sesia* for *Sesia bombyliiformis* (ibid., p. 135) and congeners, belonging in the modern system of Lepidoptera to the genus *Haemorrhagia* Grote (*Sphingidae*). When Rothschild &

Jordan (Nov. Zool. 9, Suppl., p. 432, 1903) applied that name for *S. tantalus* Linn. (*Sphingidae*!), they were likewise not justified in determining the genotype in this sense.

Conclusion. The genotype of *Sesia* Fabr., 1775, is *S. apiformis* (Cl.).

## II) *Drepana* Schrank, 1802.

Schrank, 1802 (*Fauna Boica* 2 (2), p. 155) erected the genus *Drepana* with the following species: *sicula*, *falcula*, *flexula*, *hamula*, *lacertula*, *spinula*. Kirby, 1892 (Cat. Lep. Hereroc., p. 725) being the first author to select a type, specified *D. spinula* Schrank (= *D. glaucata* (Scop.)) which became previously the type of the genus *Cilix* Leach, 1815. Unfortunately, the species cited as the type of *Drepana* was since Grote (Mitth. Roemer Mus. Hildesheim 6, pp. 1—30) still called *Cilix glaucatus* (Scop.). GROTE introduced a certain ambiguity in the nomenclature of *Drepanidae* as he made the species *D. falcula* Schrank (= *D. falcataria* (Linn.)) the genotype of *Drepana*. This fixation is, however, wholly invalid.

Conclusion. The genotype of *Drepana* Schr., 1802, is *D. glaucata* (Scop.).

## III) *Platypteryx* Laspeyres, 1803.

This genus was founded independently from that of Schrank. From the species quoted by Laspeyres, 1803 (N. Schrift. Berlin. Ges. Natur. Freunde 4, p. 29) one was chosen as the type of the genus by Latreille in 1810 (Consid. gén., p. 441). This was *Plat. falcataria* (Linn.). Later, Grote (Mitth. Roemer Mus. Hildesheim 6, pp. 1—30, 1896) considered Laspeyres' *Platypteryx hamula* (= *binaria* Hufn.) as the type of *Platypteryx* on account of a supposed restriction of this species to that genus by Hübner, 1806 (Tentamen). But this is not available, as the Tentamen was annulled, and all names contained therein must be treated as not having been published (Opinion 97 of the Int. Commission on zool. Nomencl.).

Conclusion. The genotype of *Platypteryx* Lasp., 1803, is *P. falcataria* (Linn.).

## IV) *Elpenor* Oken, 1815.

The article 30 (I-d) of the Règles enables us to accept the generic type in such case as even that of *Elpenor* Oken solely upon the basis of the original publication. One of the four species cited by Oken (Lehrb. Naturg. 3 (1), p. 760—761, 1815) was, namely, named *Elpenor vitis*, or (mentioned as the synonym:) *Elpenor elpenor*. This species becomes thus type of that genus by absolute tautonymy.

Conclusion. The genus *Elpenor* Oken, 1815 (genotype: *Sphinx elpenor* Linn.) has priority owing to *Pergesa* Walk., 1856 (genotype: *Sphinx porcellus* Linn.) and *Metopsilus* Dunc., 1836 (genotype: *Sphinx porcellus*



Linn.), and therefore, its name is to be used in future for *elpenor* Linn. and the congeners, instead of *Pergesa* Walk.

(Extract from the original source:)

(p. 760:)

1. Gattung. *Elpenor*, Spitzleibige Sch.; Mackelraupen, Augenr.; reibglatt, nackt, Kreuzhorn, Kopf kugelig, rückziehbar, am Hals mehre Aeugelflecken; P. an der Erde unter zusammengesponnenen Blättern; Fliege, Bauch spitzig, ungeringelt, Rüssel mittelmässig, Fl. zackenlos, leicht ausgeschweift, spitzig, Fühlh. fast gleichdick, unten schuppig, Spitze ein Fädchen, Augen gross, fliegen Morgens und Abends.
1. Art. *E. nerii*, Oleandersch.; Fl. grün, mehre blassere Binden, auch gelbliche, Leib grün. R. grün, gelb rosenroth, gelber Seitenstrich, Kreuzhorn sehr lang, schwarz, Aeugelflecken am Hals, 2,5'' l., auf Oleanderbaum, *Nerium*, in Italien selten, bei uns noch mehr.
2. Art. *E. celerio*, *phoenix*, Traubenlecker; Vfl. grau, weiss und schwarze Striche, weisglänzende Binde, hintere braun, Wurzel und sechs Flecken roth. R. braun, 1,5 Seitenstreif, auf 4 und 5tem Gelenk jederseits die zwei schwarze Makeln oder Augel, aufm Rebstock, im August und September.

(p. 761:)

3. Art. *E. vitis*, *elpenor*, Weinvogel; Vfl. bunt, grün und purpurn, hintere roth, Wurzel schwarz. R. grün oder braun und schwarz, auf Galium, Epilobium, Lythrum, Rebstock; P. in zusammengezogenen Blättern, gelb; Fliege häufig auf Blumen des Geisblatts und Seifenkrauts.
4. Art. *E. porcellus*, kleiner Weinvogel; Vfl. bunt, gelblich und purpurn, hintere an Wurzel braun, gelbliche Binde, Rand purpurn. Kleiner als voriger. R. wie vorige, ebenda, meist schwarz, statt des Kreuzhorns nur Borbel. Gemein.

#### V) *Manlia* Oken, 1815.

The earliest supposed name of the genus, containing the *Bombyx limacodes* Hufn. as the type species, is *Cochlidium* Hb., 1822. But in many papers another name may be observed as a serious rival: *Limacodes* Berth., 1827. The question of *Limacodes* versus *Cochlidium* (accordingly also that of *Limacodidae* versus *Cochlidiidae*) does not exist any longer as there has been brought to light the genus *Manlia* Oken, 1815, the type of which is designated in the following Conclusion.

Conclusion. The genus *Manlia* Oken, 1815 is prior to the genera *Limacodes* Berthold in Latreille, Natur. Fam. Thierr., p. 480, 1827, and *Cochlidium* Hübner, Syst.-alph. Verz., p. 58 & 65, 1822. I fix in this paper the type of *Manlia* Oken as *Bombyx limacodes* Hufn., the species placed first in that genus.

(Extract from the original source:)

(p. 667:)

3. Gattung. *Manlia*, Wicklerförmige Spinner;  
ohne Rüssel, Brust wollig, Fl. schwach abhangend, dachig; Schneckenraupen; länglich, halbwalzig, fusslos, statt derselben Bauchblasen, die einen

Schleim absondern, wodurch der Weg bezeichnet wird. P. in eiförm., harter Deckelhülse, ebenda. — *Bombyx*.

1. Art. *M. testudo*, *limacodes*; gelb, Of. gelb, 2 dunkle Bögen, mitten 2 hochrote Flecken (nicht W.), untere schwärzlich. Larve wie Schildraupe, nackt, hellgrün, im Herbst auf Eichen, Buchen. Puppe zeigt alle Glieder frei wie Käferpuppe: limax, B. asella; braun Hülsen Winters unter Buchenlaub. — Ähnliche unter Sexen.

(p. 668:)

2. Art. *M. asella*, *Phal. heterogenea cruciata*; sehr klein, völlig wie Schabe, gelbbraun. R. asselförmig, blassgrün, rothes Rückenkreuz. Auf Rothbuchen, Eichen im September. P. in Deckelhülse aufm Blatt. Ae. b. Sexen.

#### Addition.

Before correcting the proof-sheets of this paper I have received the »Further Notes on the Generic Names of British Moths» by W. H. T. Tams (Entomologist 72: 133—141). He, Tams, calls there attention to the genotype of *Apoda* Haworth (p. 136) having been fixed by Kirby, in 1892, as *Apoda avellana* (Linnaeus) [= *Manlia limacodes* (Hufn.)]. Thus, *Apoda* Haw., 1809 is prior to *Manlia* Oken, 1815, and must be used in favour of the isotypic *Manlia*.

(*Apoda* Haworth, Lep. Brit. (2), p. 137, 1809.)

When studying recently the famous »British Entomology» by John Curtis I was surprised to notice that the author of this work designated the type of the genus *Deilephila* Lasp., 1809, as *D. elpenor* Linn. Curtis did so in the first volume published in 1824. He is — to my knowledge — to be considered as the first author to fix the genotype of *Deilephila* Lasp. Accordingly, I find it necessary to correct the respective Conclusion saying that the generic name *Elpenor* Oken, 1815, should be used in future, and infer from that that only *Deilephila* Lasp. is the name required, instead of those of *Pergesa* Walk. and *Metopsilus* Dunc.

(*Deilephila* Laspeyres, Allg. Literatur-Zeit. 4, p. 100, 1809.)